**Report from the County Librarian**

Friends of the Calaveras County Library – June 14, 2023

**Staff:**

**First 5/children’s program:** Sarah McHenry, our new First 5 staff has completed County begun her work with us. She has many years of library experience and some experience with children. She will be a quick study for what needs to be done with our children 0-5. She has done well in her first 2 weeks of Storytime in SA.

**Rover for Murphys/Bookmobile:** I have received applications to review for this position. Only 5 look promising. We had hoped to interview in early June, but are going to need to wait. Crystal LeClerq is filling in for us until we hire someone.

**Rover for Angels Camp/Valley Springs/SA:** Debbie Hesse has retired and is moving to Southern California. I have opened a recruitment and have a couple of applicants. We will likely interview in the next couple of weeks. We will take both rover positions together for the interviews.

**Library Assistant – San Andreas:** Janet Cool, staff who worked mainly with ZIP books, has retired. I have opened a recruitment for this 18-hour position.

**Bookmobile:** We had a tremendous launch of the Bookmobile at the County Fair from May 18-22. Friends of the Library and I were there daily to run the library’s booth and show folks inside our new treasure. We engaged with hundreds of children and families and were able to share about Summer Reading, Lunch at the Library and give them First 5 flyers for the Dolly Parten’s imagination library. It was lots of work, but lots of fun. The Friends of each site sent 1-2 people to serve in the booth in 2-4-hour shifts and all went very well. Thanks to all who joined the fun!

We got about $120.00 in donations at the booth.

We have counted all the left-over prizes to help with knowing how much to purchase for next year. I think we need to have about 2000 prizes if we stay in the same locations. This year, a donation of a frog collection saved the day!

**Parks Pass Grant opportunity:** We received the first check of $67,391 on Monday, May 8. I gave it to Shirley Huberty to deposit on Tuesday the 9th. We are preparing for our first Big Trees excursion for June 23rd. The contract has been signed and sent to Motherlode Adventures for their signature. The insurance is approved by HR/Risk, the flyer and registration forms will be distributed and all is a GO for a fun day. The trip will be open to all branches, but we hope to have good participation from the western-most sites, as the distance prohibits some families from see the park. There will be 3 more trips this summer or early fall. Ronnie Hawkins is the Library staff helping with the trips.

**Biblioboard:** I don’t think we have enough interest from other groups to help with the cost of this. It is too costly for us to pay for it on our own. Does FOTCCL want to consider this?

**Library Speakers Consortium:** This is an online program to give libraries access to best-selling author talks digitally. I will give you more details at the meeting. I am in touch with our representative for this program. MVL would like to designate part of their annual donation to FOTCCL to pay for this. I am prepared to get it going when I return from vacation mid-July.

**Summer Reading 2023:** We had a great Packet Packing Party on June 3rd with 33 staff and volunteers present to help with the undertaking. Thanks to Kris and Nancy for helping us get it done. It didn’t quite go from 9-12, more like 9-1 or 2 or 3 in some cases!!

We are now tweaking numbers and ensuring everyone has what they need for day 1! We are ordering more YA books as we have more sign-ups than projected in most sites. What a nice problem to have! To date we have 877 children/young people registered with more coming in every day! We began giving out packets Monday, June 12th.

Our wonderful volunteer, Myra, created a plan for inspiring teens to take pictures of themselves for a display at their branch libraries, Get Caught Reading for Summer Reading. She and Mariah went to the fair to take pictures of various people reading there and these are displayed on a bulletin board in SA. We are hoping all branches can create a board/place to display pictures of the teens participating in their programs. **Any other contributions to this will be welcome** – that means from you!

**Check out our display in the Lobby before you leave today!**

**Lunch at the Library:** 3 teens and one adult are working with us this summer to collect and deliver food each day. A plan to bring food to Copper, Murphys and Arnold on Storytime days is in place. Things are moving along with some daily tweaking.

Maria will bring a craft project for two weeks during Storytime for older children. Randie Ortloff will bring a program from Public Health, where she now works, one week.

**Grant for Murphys Branch Extension:** I submitted our grant in plenty of time – 4:57 p.m. on the 17th! (It was due at noon on the 18th) We had a very complete application turning in 4 of the 5 optional pieces. I will show you the drawings on my laptop. We included solar panels (which should be adequate to serve the entire library) and proposed a bioswale system for the garden area/outdoor program space we are proposing. These environmental improvements may give more weight to our request.

We are asking for roughly 1.3 million. One of the main critereon is poverty. On the spreadsheet they use to determine poverty of libraries, Murphys has only 12.55% of its population living below poverty. However, Administration found two other sources of data which I attached to the grant. These show that the area in which the library sits, is very high poverty. I hope that will help, but they may not consider that data.

$175 million is available and if there are other smaller projects, ours may fit in to a nook they need to fill! Hoping for the best.

I learned in a meeting of the California Library Services Act Board that there are 149 applications for this grant. Requested funds: $546 million. ☹ Results will be made public in September.

**ZIP books:** We have spent all of our allotment of $12,729. We are not suspending ordering, however. We are hoping to get our full request of $14,400 for next year, but again, the requests are higher than the money available, so we will just have to wait and see.